

Exhibit 12



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

MAR 27 2019

Case Number: F-2017-17610

Patrick McMullen
Sparacino & Andreson PLLC
1920 L Street, N.W. Suite 535
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Mullen:

This is in further response to our letter dated November 21, 2018, regarding your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, 5 U.S.C. § 552, to the Department of State (DOS) for specific cables sent and/or received by officials representing DOS and/or its organizational components.

A second search of the Central Foreign Policy File (the principal record system of the DOS) was conducted, resulting in the retrieval of two documents responsive to your request. After carefully reviewing the records, we determined they are appropriate for release in part. The denied information is exempt from release pursuant to the following exemptions:

- 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(1), which protects information that is properly classified in the interest of national security pursuant to Executive Order 13526.
- 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6), which concerns material the release of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of an individual's personal privacy.

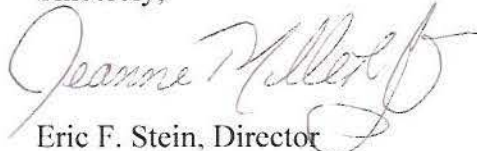
For further assistance or to discuss any aspect of your request, you may contact our FOIA Requester Service Center or our FOIA Public Liaison via email to FOIAstatus@state.gov or telephone at (202) 261-8484.

If you are not satisfied with DOS's determination in response to your FOIA request, you may administratively appeal by writing to: Appeals Officer, Appeals Review Panel, Office of Information Programs and Services (IPS), U.S. Department of State, State Annex 2 (SA-2), 515 22nd Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20522-8100, or faxed to (202) 261-8571. Appeals must be postmarked within 90 calendar days of the date of this initial agency decision letter. Please include a copy of this letter with your written appeal and clearly state why you disagree with the determinations set forth in this response.

Additionally, if you are not satisfied with DOS's determination in response to your request, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) to inquire about the FOIA Mediation Services they offer.

The contact information for OGIS is as follows: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road-OGIS, College Park, Maryland 20740-6001, email address: ogis@nara.gov; telephone: (202) 741-5770; toll free number: 1-877-684-6448; facsimile: (202) 741-5769.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Eric F. Stein", written over a light blue horizontal line.

Eric F. Stein, Director
Office of Information Programs and Services